

**Town of Barrington
Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2016**

Members Present:

Matthew Amaral, Robert Humm, Mark Etheridge, Jim Sanderson, Buddy Violet and Dick Wilbur. Also present: Town Council liaison Michael Carroll.

1. Call to Order at 7:09 PM
2. January 19 Minutes were approved unanimously with two small amendments.
3. Chair Rob Humm welcomed the newest member of the EDC, Mr. Henry “Buddy” Violet. Buddy is a long-time resident of Barrington and businessman. Robb and Dick noted that the EDC webpage is now live on the Town website, and that our press release is currently on the front page of the website. We had asked that an email address be created and made public, and await action on that request. Robb reminded the Meeting of the February 24 Town Council Forum on the Access to Public Records Act and Open Meeting Act.
4. The Meeting continued its discussion of whether the Town should hire a Business Liaison/Economic Development person to support business in Barrington. Matt mentioned that he had met Bristol’s new business liaison, Ms. Jessica Pflaumer, and suggested that we invite her to join us at a future meeting (perhaps May 19). Mark reminded us that the former Barrington business liaison had agreed to meet with us to summarize her experience, and offered to extend an invitation to her on our behalf to join us for our April 21 meeting. Mark noted that her biggest frustration seemed to center on a breakdown in communications; as structured, her job required her to rely on other Town employees to make progress on any issue, and she felt that their own responsibilities got in the way of responding to her needs. Members developed a list of questions to ask Town Manager Peter DeAngelis during our March 10 meeting.
5. The Meeting next returned to the discussion of issues related to Food Trucks in town, and noted that the high school had recently organized a “Winter Food Truck Fest” event and included a number of food trucks from out of town – an event that the Town apparently did not know about. As the school district has a certain amount of independence in terms of use of its facilities, there apparently is no need for the Parents’ Association to coordinate with the Town. However, Members agreed that this kind of event represents an opportunity for Town businesses and that a Town business liaison could

provide a valuable service in sharing information and helping all sides coordinate.

6. Next, the Meeting continued discussion of Signage. Rob noted that there are zoning ordinances at work here, but that the EDC unanimously favored the creation of pre-approved sign templates, the existence of which should significantly decrease the time and frustration level experienced by business owners seeking to obtain approval for sign designs. The Meeting agreed to return to this topic for the April meeting, and to review Chapter 185 of the Barrington ordinances in preparation for that discussion.
7. Future EDC meetings dates have been set as follows:

March 10, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, and Aug 18.
8. Open Discussion: Buddy suggested that we recommend to the Town Council that the Town host an educational forum for the local business community to showcase various services and government programs available to businesses. He has seen this sort of thing done before to great effect before, and felt that the business community would respond very positively to such an event. The Meeting agreed to the idea in principle but tabled it for future discussion and possible recommendation to the Council until after we meet with Town Manager Peter DeAngelis.
9. The Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.